



October 28, 2105

Mittimatalik HTO has reviewed the management plan and have the following comments and suggestions based on their review:

1. It is stated in the Management plan that the "best available scientific knowledge" is used and guides management plans being made.
 - according to the proposed management plan the best available scientific Knowledge used for Baffin Bay area is from 1997. This is too outdated, 18 years ago information being used for management plan today is highly affecting how polar bears are being managed today.
 - too many times we hear of polar being or going extinct, this is because we are using a 1 time study based in 1997 and the scientific information is way too old. Often causing contradicting statements between science and Inuit.
 - up to date scientific knowledge and knowledge of Inuit needs to be recorded, most recent documentation needs to be done.
 - NWMB and the Government of Nunavut need to make the documentation of up to date information from both scientific knowledge and knowledge of Inuit a priority. To ensure management plans are based on the most recent knowledge valid to life today.
 - Inuit knowledge holders need to be utilized, while they are still around; before we are forced to rely solely on scientific knowledge.
2. 4.4.3
 - Inuit Knowledge, polar bears are much fatter in the summer or gain much of their fat in the summer. Polar bears seem to be skinnier in the winter compared to summer.
 - there is so much concern that polar bears will have no way of eating if winter season becomes shorter or in relation to climate change. It needs to be noted that polar bears are 'wasting' so much food. Hunting for seals having a few bites and then leaving it to hunt another seal. An abundance of food availability is not good either. Inuit get the blame for leaving eatable animals and polar bears are a major contributor to this.
3. 7.2
 - there is contradicting statement here, we all need to ensure that speculations are left out and a conclusion needs to be made on one idea at a time. Validation needs to be made, update our scientific knowledge and connect it to Inuit Knowledge and they should back each other up.
4. 7.3.1
 - we would just like to express our support to the statement made by Leopa that is noted here.
5. 7.4
 - we agree satellite transmitting devices provide the most accurate information, however we would suggest finding some other way of attaching transmitters to polar bears. Collars alter a polar bears ability to hunt. With a polar bear, some of their hunting requires them to quickly dive into small, tight spaces (seal hunting) collars and ear attachments would really alter their ability or hurt them.

6. 7.5
 - we would like to be able to harvest polar bear in the summer, when they are fatter, and taste different from winter.
 - We all need to find a way of confirming the idea that 'maybe or perhaps polar populations are on a decline'. This needs to become a clear statement either they are or not, no more assumptions. There is a concern for safety of people, with increased polar bear and Inuit interactions. We need to find out why interactions have increased there are many ideas or theories, but we need to confirm if it's a population issue or not.
 - due to safety concerns of Inuit with increased interactions with polar bears the funding spoken about here needs to be accessible to Inuit and be communicated. It is crucial that Inuit safety is taken seriously and that the funding availability becomes a reality to protect people, Inuit knowledge of many aspects including knowledge of land, ways of hunting, navigation, land marks, hunting grounds, camping grounds and many other aspect of Inuit tradition and culture such as use of dog teams, raising a dog team, polar bear hunting, butchering, cleaning and preparation of hide and sewing of clothing.
7. 7.7
 - we would like to know why Baffin Bay is the only population not allowed to take part in the international trade. We should not be penalised for out dated population statistics, it is not our fault. We have been aware that the population stats need to be updated, we push for a thorough data collection in a year. Not a season, not once in a year but a thorough data collection.
 - we feel left out in the ability to sell or trade and we would like to be able to sell polar bear hides.
8. 7.8.1
 - we would suggest an actual reporting schedule to be used. Our HTO has thrown out so many hides, caused by waiting so long for investigations to be completed. A reasonable schedule, a time line in which all parties have to report, and have the file complete would allow a smoother process. Currently we all play the waiting game, we all should have a schedule due dates or a time line. So we can actually get them done.
9. 8.1.1
 - We do not like the idea of being able to harvest just the cub, if a cub will be harvested the mother always needs to be harvested first. We should not be able to harvest a cub alone. We like the idea that is here, but we are so connected to the way Inuit have taught us to hunt over the many years and I think we do not take young animals away from their mothers.
 - if tags are not allowed to be carried over, then we feel we should not be credited negative numbers. We can get unused tags from previous year then we should not be docked any tags from the next year to balance the previous year. It's not fair, we should be able to carry over unused tags.
 - if the closing date is June 30 then shouldn't the opening be next day July 1 as it says in the wild life act. Why do we then wait till October to have tags allocated to communities?
- Scientific knowledge really needs to be updated to allow an increase in TAH.
10. 8.2.2
 - Inventory studies every 10 years is way too long to be waiting. Our last inventory study was in 1997...it is now the end of 2015 and our managements plan for polar bear is still affected by a study that was done in 1997. Inventory studies need to happen every 5 years.
 - Inuit have taken part in other studies but they are dropped off while the scientists do their part, the Inuit then never really takes part in anything. Inuit need to be there and take part for the entire process. Inuit should not just ride and be dropped off while they begin to work.
 - a polar bear can easily be worth over \$10, 000.00 a compensation of \$1,000.00 is too small. Depending on distance of hunt \$1,000.00 may not even cover the cost of hunt (gas ammunition food supply etc.)
 - Baffin Bay needs to have a study done, when will this happen. We have been waiting too long.
 - we are interested in comparing management plans with Greenland, we like to go see their HTO and learn how different or how similar our management plans are. We would like to find out how hunts are managed.

